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ABSTRACT

This book reports on part of the results of an international research effort to analyze the structures and impacts of study abroad programs offered by higher education institutions in France, West Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. This volume, the first of two, presents the analysis of the structure and dynamics of study abroad programs as an instrument for "delivering" international experience (a second volume presents analysis of the experience itself and effects on participating students). Following a survey of over 100 programs two general conclusions were drawn: (1) a program's existence often depended often on the immense efforts of one or more key persons; and (2) financial support schemes were positive and effective but the financial costs for the student were generally still significant. The text presents analysis in 11 chapters treating the following topics: research design and methodology, programs in the sample, program origins and institutional contexts, participant profiles and selection criteria, preparation and experiences, academic recognition, assessment and curricular integration, costs and financing, assessment problems, critical factors affecting outcomes, and conclusions. A number of tables and figures illustrate the text. (JB)

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